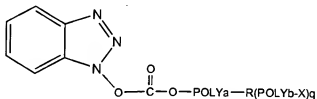


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31. A method for the preparation of a 1-benzotriazolylcarbonate ester of a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer, comprising:

providing a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer having at least one terminal hydroxyl group, the polymer having the structure $\text{HQ-POLYa-R(POLYb-X)}_q$, wherein POLYa and POLYb are water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbones that may be the same or different, R is a central core molecule, q is an integer from 2 to about 300, and each X is a capping group; and

reacting the terminal hydroxyl group of the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer with di(1-benzotriazolyl)carbonate to form a 1-benzotriazolylcarbonate ester of the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer having the structure:



32. The method of Claim 31, wherein each water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone is selected from the group consisting of poly(alkylene glycol), poly(oxyethylated polyol), poly(olefinic alcohol), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(hydroxypropylmethacrylamide), poly(α -hydroxy acid), poly(vinyl alcohol), polyphosphazene, polyoxazoline, poly(N-acryloylmorpholine), and copolymers, terpolymers, and mixtures thereof.

33. The method of Claim 31, wherein POLYa and POLYb are poly(ethylene glycol).

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein POLYa and POLYb each have an average molecular weight from about 200 Da to about 100,000 Da.

35. The method of Claim 31, wherein each X is independently selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, active ester, active carbonate, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrates, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, active sulfone, protected amine, protected hydrazide, thiol, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxals, diones, mesylates, tosylates, and tresylate.

36. The method of Claim 31, wherein said reacting step is conducted in an organic solvent.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, and mixtures thereof.

38. The method of Claim 31, wherein said reacting step is conducted in the presence of a base.

39. The method of Claim 38, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of pyridine, dimethylaminopyridine, quinoline, trialkylamines, and mixtures thereof.

40. The method of Claim 31, wherein the molar ratio of di(1-benzotriazolyl) carbonate to the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer is about 30:1 or less.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 have been cancelled from the application and new Claims 31-40 have been added. The purpose of this Amendment is to present claims directed to the Group II non-elected invention of the parent application. As a result, the claim amendments presented herein are not submitted for purposes of further limitation or to overcome any rejection. Applicant respectfully